



## Boulder Creek Falls Trail



Boulder Creek Falls

### TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

Starting at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center drive seven miles west on Hwy 299. Turn left (south) on Carr Powerhouse Road. Continue past the powerhouse 2.7 miles on South Shore Drive to the trailhead on the right (south) side of the road. Limited parking is available across the road.

The same trailhead can also be approached from Kennedy Memorial Drive. From the dam, drive west 4.3 miles. Just before the gate at Dry Creek Group Campground, turn left. Follow South Shore Drive 2.7 miles to the trailhead.

### TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The first mile of the trail treks up a wide but exposed logging road through a thicket of white leaf manzanita, knobcone pines, redbuds, wild grape and poison oak. As you approach the creek this brush land transitions into a forest of ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, and canyon live oaks.

### FEATURES

Difficulty Level: Moderate  
Length: 3.2 miles one way  
Elevation: 1,000 feet elevation change  
Debris flows from Shasta Bally batholith  
Suitable for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians

Look for ladybugs in a clearing just before the first creek crossing. Thousands may be seen next to the side of the trail on sunny days in fall, winter and early spring.

The trail follows the creek for the next half mile, eventually making four crossings. Along the creek bracken and sword ferns abound.

Just past the third crossing on either side of the trail are several deteriorating foundations of a residence last occupied in the 1960s. A little farther the trail forks; take the right fork. Look for a nice stand of big leaf maples approaching the final crossing. The sign marking the falls is here.

The short side trail to the falls can be misleading. Head for the steps on the left and follow them up the hill to the rocky vantage point where the main falls can be seen. The falls directly ahead are 81 feet



Lower Pool

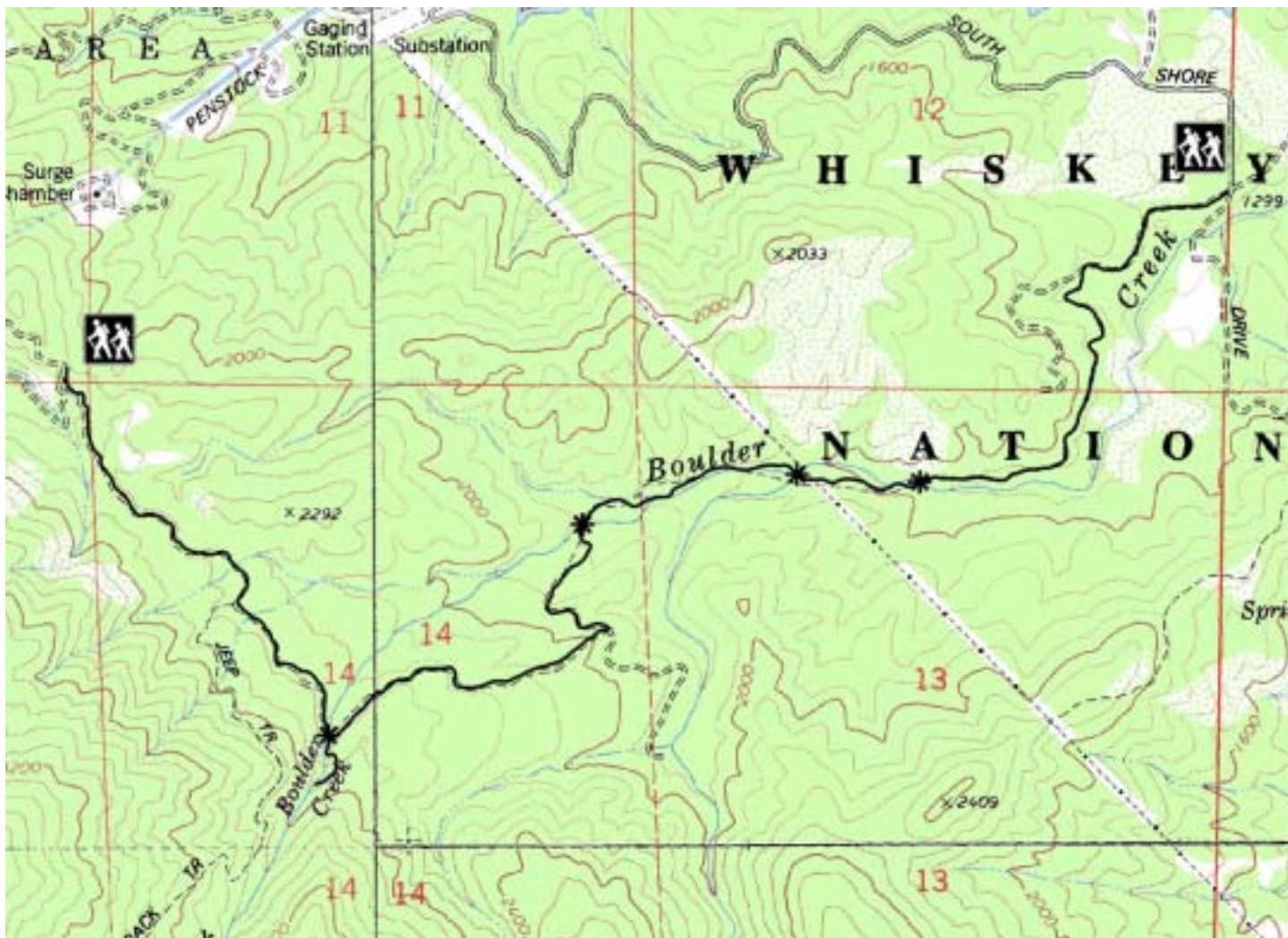
tall and the cataracts above are 28 feet in height.

A variety of trees are seen along the trail including black oak, knobcone pine and Douglas fir.

The trail terminates at Mill Creek Road. Turn right and walk to the Carr Powerhouse, 1.7 miles distant. Or, return back to your vehicle the way you came.



Wet and slippery stones make stream crossings extremely dangerous most of the year. Take only short steps from dry rock to dry rock. Never take long strides or leaps and never step on submerged rocks. It is advisable to find a shallow spot and wade across.



## GEOLOGY

Boulder Creek cuts through Copley greenstone, a Devonian metamorphic rock of near-shore oceanic origin formed about 400 million years ago. It ranges in color from dull orange and light brown (weathered) to dark blue-green.

Along the trail and in the creek bed you will see numerous areas where the greenstone is capped with granitic boulders. These are debris flows from the Shasta Bally batholith (Cretaceous,

133 million years) that from time to time have washed down the mountain into the creek valley. Several hundred yards above the falls, a particularly good example of this formation may be seen.

Across Mill Creek Road at the upper trailhead is a majestic ravine that follows the Hoadley fault through much of the park. The Hoadley is an inactive extensional fault, slightly older than the Shasta Bally Batholith.



The following plants can be found along the trail.

### *Smaller plants:*

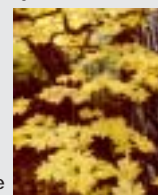
- White leaf manzanita
- California wild grape
- Bracken fern, sword fern
- St. John's wort
- Ceanothus
- Wild iris
- Wild ginger



Bracken fern

### *Trees:*

- Knobcone pine, ponderosa pine, sugar pine
- Douglas fir
- Black oak, tan oak, canyon live oak
- Big leaf maple
- Western dogwood
- Redbud
- Incense cedar



Big leaf maple

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